GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:626
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
ACTIVITIES BY ICAR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agriculture and Research (ICAR) aims to intervene to enhance production;

(b) if so, the details of the research and developmental activities undertaken by ICAR during the last three years;

(c) the details of other agencies involved in Planning, Research and Development, Value addition and marketing of agricultural produce;

(d) whether involvement and suggestion of various agencies regarding agricultural production leaves the farmers confused; and

(e) if so, the steps are being taken by the Government to bring clarity in the conception of thoughts of farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is mandated to generate, validate and demonstrate farm technologies through its 95 Institutes, 61 All India Coordinated Research Projects, 16 Networks and 558 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The focus of research during last three years has been evolution of high yielding varieties/hybrids of crops, resource conservation technologies, integrated farming, organic farming, input use efficiency, quality seed and human resource, improved farm machinery and implements, improved livestock and fisheries.

(b) The ICAR is an apex research organization in agriculture at national level and mandated to conduct and coordinate education, research and its application in agriculture including animal science and fisheries. During Xth Five Year Plan the ICAR launched several new projects/programmes to address emerging issues and concerns to support farming and farmers in the country. Some of these initiative include launching of `National Agricultural Innovation Project`, with the support of the World Bank, to promote production to consumption system and improved livelihood security of rural people; `Indo-US Knowledge Initiative`, to explore and work on mutually reinforcing priority areas of agricultural education, research, service and commercial linkage; `National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research in Agricultural Sciences`, to strengthen basic and strategic research; and Project on `quality seed production in agricultural crops and fisheries`.Network Programmes were initiated on `Insect Bio-systematics`, `Transgenics`, `Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change`, `Organic Farming`, `Veterinary Type Culture`, `Prospecting, employment and management of agriculturally important microorganisms`. A National research Center on Pomegranate at Solapur was also established to give boost to the process of diversification of agriculture towards enhancing the farm production, income and nutritional security. To protect the intellectual property and commercialize agriculture-technology/product, the ICAR guidelines on `Intellectual Property Management and Transfer/Commercialization of Agricultural Technology` were put in place.

(c) The other agencies which are involved in Planning, Research and Development activities include Planning Commission, sisters Departments of Ministry of Agriculture, Scientific Departments and Organizations such as Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology, Central Scientific and Industrial Research, University Grants Commission; Central Ministries of Human Resource Development; Environment and Forest; Water Resources; and Finance; State Agricultural Universities and line departments.

(d) Commodity centric research and transfer of technology coupled with multiplicity of sources of information may sometimes puzzle the users of technology.

(e) The efforts are on to bring convergence in the technology dissemination system at district level through establishing and strengthening Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agricultural Technology Management Agency.